

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

(P365)
RELEASED IN FULL

OPERATION SUPPORT HOPE -- TRANSITION UPDATE

Operation Support Hope (OSH) -- the in-theater U.S. military presence aspect of our humanitarian assistance effort -- is proceeding on a schedule that will bring OSH to a close by September 30. It is anticipated that the President will sign off soon on this timeframe.

The U.S. military has nearly completed the hand-off to UNHCR, UNAMIR, and NGOs of emergency service packages provided during the initial Goma crisis. These packages included: water (Goma), airport services (Goma and Kigali), logistics base services (Goma and Kigali), and the Entebbe airhead. OSH has already transitioned out of Zaire (U.S. military troops departed on August 25), leaving some \$2.8 million worth of heavy equipment used for water and site preparation to UNHCR.

To ensure a "seamless" transition from OSH, the USG asked UNHCR if there were still relief requirements of a uniquely military character that needed to be addressed before the handover to traditional refugee assistance agencies was complete. On September 7, UNHCR officially requested that the USG continue to provide military logistics and airlift services for an additional six months. UNHCR also requested spare parts and a variety of specific air deliveries.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: THEODORE SELLIN
DATE/CASE ID: 1 FEB 2002 200000294

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

As a result of OSH Gen. Schroeder's consultations in Geneva with the High Commissioner for Refugees and her key staff, UNHCR withdrew most of its requests. The remaining requests -- two specific air delivery requests (satellite communications and trucks) that had already been approved, spare parts for the already-donated equipment, and aircell/Geneva personnel and training -- will almost certainly be accommodated.

The one outstanding issue is whether it would be appropriate to associate OSH with UNHCR's plan to break up the Goma area camps into smaller units to improve the prospects for getting a handle on the security issue. That could mean keeping a U.S. military presence in the region to assist with site preparation after September 30. This is an issue which remains to be decided, and needs to be put to the principals for a policy decision.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Drafted: PRM/AAA - MMcKelvey, 3-1027

SERWBY 190

Cleared: AF/C- Kevin Aiston (cleared)

PM/ISP - Phil Suter (cleared)

IO/PHO - April Kanne (cleared)

G - Anne Joyce (cleared)

P - Leslie Bassett (cleared)

S-S/S - GPasi

UNCLASSIFIED